

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1898.

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

The order for the concentration of nearly all the infantry regiments of our regular army at ports of the Gulf States is taken by some persons to mean that the invasion of Cuba will be entrusted to them, and that the volunteers will have no lot nor part in it.

We do not think that that necessarily follows. Far from it. The regulars are to be gathered together in the South because that is the natural basis of operations, whether our movements are to be offensive or defensive. In case the regulars are to be sent to Cuba, they will be the better prepared for that service after a few weeks' acclimatization on the Gulf coast. Or, should they be required to defend our own cities from threatened attack, they will be where they can be readily dispatched to the localities where they will be most useful.

Representatives of the National Guard of the United States have been at Washington in consultation with the Secretary of War and General Miles, and it is understood that the bill for reorganizing the army will be pushed through Congress as soon as possible. And arrangements probably will be made for calling the organized militia into service at once—50,000 on the first call and a like number upon the second call. At the conference referred to it was said that at least 75 per centum of the officers and members of the National Guard would volunteer to go to Cuba if needed, and would permit themselves to be mustered in with that understanding. The reorganization contemplated will provide for the appointment of a number of major and brigadier-generals of volunteers, and in all quarters it seems to be believed that General Lee will be the first major-general appointed. When his name was mentioned at the conference all the officers cheered enthusiastically. North and South, the popular wish is manifested that Lee should not only have a general's commission, but that he should be sent at the head of his command into Cuba to average the men of the Maine and to liberate the Cuban people from the tyranny of the Spaniards and from the horrors of their long-drawn-out war.

General Lee has been in consultation with the Strategic Board at Washington, and various alleged accounts of their conversations have been published, but we put no faith in any of these reports. It is not likely that the board desires to take the public into its confidence; but if we must come we may presume that the effort will be made to have it "short, sharp, and decisive." But, hurry as we may, much yet remains to be done before we can land an army in Cuba. We must have the men; we must have the transports; we must have camp and siege equipment; we must have a vast medical department, and what is more, we must have concerted action of the army and the navy. People who are so clamorous for immediate action would be less eager than they are if upon their own shoulders and not upon others, rested the responsibility for a forward movement.

We observe that some of our able contemporaries are discussing the question, Who is to fire the first shot? They represent that neither Spain nor the United States wish to be the first to pull the trigger. That may be; but if the United States is going to send her army and navy to Cuba to "intervene" it will not cut any figure in the opinion of the world "who fired the first shot."

If we are going into war we should cultivate the virtue of patience. It will be as much needed as courage. We should have a good stock of both; not that there would be any doubt as to the result of the conflict, but because great armies move slowly and great generals will not permit themselves to be hurried by press or people.

Capital punishment has been abolished in Colorado, Rhode Island, Maine, Michigan, and Wisconsin. In Kansas the signature of the governor is necessary for an execution. In New York and Ohio the electric chair takes the place of the gallows. The New York Press, in discussing this subject, declares that it "cannot be abolished."

not be said, as a matter of statistics, that the abolition of the death penalty in the States named has increased or diminished crime. The new law here and in Ohio has not been in operation long enough to test its efficiency as a preventive of crime.

EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

The necessary blank forms are being prepared to carry into effect the recent act of Assembly, authorizing the Governor to grant conditional pardons. And so we shall soon have in operation in Virginia a system which has worked well in other States, and which has proved to be greatly promotive of reformation upon the part of criminals.

The rule prevailing where this system obtains is that the applicant for clemency shall be able to satisfy the pardoning power that he has means to support himself or will be able to secure employment. Experience has shown that this is an essential prerequisite; yet many prisoners will be unable to give satisfactory assurances upon that point. But to turn the average convict loose without money and without friends who are willing to take care of him would hardly be mercy to him, and certainly would be none to the community. The odds are heavy that he would soon return to crime as a means of livelihood.

All applications for conditional pardons must be made to the Board of Directors of the penitentiary; but it is left to the Governor to say whether any pardon shall be granted, and it is his prerogative also to prescribe the conditions thereof.

ZOLA PERSECUTION.

The quashing by the Court of Cassation of the verdict of the Assize Court against Zola is regarded as a great triumph for the friends of Dreyfus, but has stimulated petty persecution of the novelist. Measures have been introduced into the French Chamber of Deputies to "degrade" Zola by taking away from him his cross of the legion of honor, and a similar "demand" has been made in the French Senate. Several of the Paris and provincial papers have also joined this crusade, claiming that the moral effect of the sentence of one year's imprisonment remains intact, and that a man who has insulted the army should not be permitted to wear the cross.

Considering some of the recent scandals associated with the bestowal of legion of honor decorations, Zola might well afford to settle the matter by surrendering his cross without further ado, especially in view of the fact that subscriptions to the Zola gold medal are pouring in from all parts of Europe.

At the recent meeting of the New York State Farmers' Institute held at Sidney, in Delaware county, the subject of sugar-beet growing was elaborately discussed. Mr. J. E. Rogers spoke on the "Profits of Growing Sugar-Beets and Their Culture." He stated that there are now eight sugar-beet factories in this country, and that several more will be built this year. The prices paid for beets range from \$1 to \$1.50 per ton, and to grow an acre of beets costs from \$25 to \$40, according to the experience of the farmer and other circumstances, while the profit ought to be from \$30 to \$50 per acre.

In answer to questions, Mr. Rogers gave the following cultural directions:

Best lands are not confined to valleys or flats. Any land that is free from stones, that can be tilled to a depth of twelve to fifteen inches, will grow beets rich in sugar. Deep plowing is essential. The soil should be made friable to the depth of 12 inches. This should be done, not by turning the subsoil to the surface, but by turning it over and harrowing it. The plow that breaks the subsoil, but does not bring it to the top. Then, thoroughly pulverize the soil to a depth of several inches, and thus prepare a good seed-bed. It is better to plow the ground early in the spring, then harrow it and let it lie until the weeds start to grow. Then, just before sowing the seed, harrow again, and so destroy the first crop of weeds. Cornstalks and other refuse do not cover seeds to the land, as does stable manure. If the land is fairly rich, 40 to 60 pounds of high-grade fertilizer per acre will produce a good crop of beets. This should be scattered evenly over the ground. It has not been found profitable to transplant beets when seed can be bought for 25 cents per pound.

The seed is sown with a seed-drill, at the rate of 14 pounds per acre, putting in the seed from 3 to 4 inch deep. The rows should be from 18 to 20 inches apart and straight, that they may be more easily cultivated. When the plants are 2 inches high, thin them out, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 4 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 6 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 8 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 10 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 12 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 14 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 16 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 18 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 20 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 22 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 24 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 26 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 28 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 30 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 32 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 34 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 36 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 38 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 40 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 42 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 44 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 46 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 48 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 50 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 52 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 54 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 56 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 58 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 60 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 62 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 64 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 66 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 68 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 70 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 72 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 74 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 76 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 78 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 80 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 82 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 84 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 86 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 88 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 90 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 92 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 94 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 96 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 98 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot. When the plants are 100 inches high, thin them out again, leaving only one plant to the foot.

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TRAINED DIPLOMATS.

The New York Herald asks the question: "If we had had prior to the present crisis either a school of diplomacy or a well-organized foreign office or diplomatic service, is it not conceivable that they would have been of use to the country in negotiating with Spain?"

Yes. Decidedly conceivable, we should say. The question has suggested itself to many persons since our complications with Spain reached the acute stage, and has in various veiled forms and roundabout ways found expression in print.

In the gravest international crisis that has confronted the country in many, many years, we have not only been without an experienced diplomat at the head of the State Department, but practically the duties of Secretary of State have devolved on a man who, from all that can be learned, never, previous to his having been made Assistant Secretary of State, had given an hour's study to the subject of diplomacy. And that man has had to deal straight along with professional diplomats.

Judge Day was known before being called into the State Department as a Canton lawyer of good ability. No doubt he has in his trying position acquitted himself as well as any other man of equal ability and similar schooling would have done. Indeed, it must be admitted that he seems to have acquitted himself much better than the country had a right to expect he would. None the less, we dare say that when the whole story of our diplomatic negotiations with Spain comes out it will be found that the lack of diplomatic experience in the State Department put us at a great disadvantage. We dare say it will be found that we committed some very unfortunate blunders. If that is not probable, why is it that so much stress is laid in Europe upon diplomatic education?

Of course, the question of remedy is hardly a practical question at this particular juncture. If it shall turn out that we have blundered into a war that might have been avoided, we will have to make the best of it. But whether it is to be peace or war, the matter is one we might not make a mistake in giving weighty consideration to in the future.

The Kiondikiers are now rejoicing in a temperature not lower than 40 or 45 degrees below zero. This they consider quite vernal, and it makes them think of taking off their winter flannel.

Captain Skisbee, who commanded the Maine at the time of the disaster in Havana harbor, took formal command of the auxiliary cruiser St. Paul on Sunday morning.

General Lew Wallace announces his retirement from the race for the nomination for United States Senator in Indiana, because of the fact that he has tendered military service to the President.

And now another Spanish flotilla is reported at Porto Rico. Where do all these flotillas come from? Has Spain in point of fact another Armada on the seas?

A Russian cook jumped from the Brooklyn bridge Sunday-possibly driven to desperation by dyspepsia due to sampling his own concoctions.

Boston had a million-dollar fire Sunday. A big elevator, filled with Leiter wheat, was consumed.

Rev. Dr. Talmage announces his intention of going to the front as an army chaplain, if war comes.

The Cuban insurgents do not seem to have heard of the armistice. They are fighting right along, at any rate.

Richmond, Va., April 18, 1898. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Mrs. Jefferson Davis requests me to say that the letter which was published in this morning's Washington Post was a private letter.

Mrs. Davis says further that she had no intention of conveying the impression that the Cubans were, in her opinion, a race of murderers, as she is well aware that the colored people only number about one third of the population, and that both whites and blacks dwell upon the island as they do in the Southern States. In Mrs. Davis' opinion it would be a mistake to annex any territory to the United States which contained any large number of colored people.

Mrs. Davis says that she hurriedly scribbled the note, in answer to a war letter, and was much chagrined when she saw opinions which she does not seriously entertain published broadcast over the land. It is but natural that she should deprecate war.

J. M. MORGAN, Ex-Confederate States Navy.

On the Original Plan. (New York Tribune.)

A story is told of Admiral Sicard when at Yorktown with his fleet for drills and maneuvers. A force was to land and capture an inland railroad base against a defense force of little more than half its size. The two commanders of these forces were discussing before the Admiral the details, and each contended that the other would have superior advantages. The Admiral, after puzzling over how the differences might be adjusted, finally said:

"Gentlemen, it is evident that the matter can be reconciled in only one way. Suppose you swap forces and fight the other way."

The battle was fought on the original plan.

A Different Case. (Chicago News.)

"What's the matter, old man?" "An old uncle of mine is coming from the country to visit me. He's one of the greatest old guys in seven States. I suppose he'll make me the laughing stock of everybody that knows him."

"It isn't your Uncle Henry, who was up here last year, is it?"

"Yes."

"You didn't seem to be afraid that he'd make a laughing stock of you, then?"

"I know; but he's gone and lost all his money."

Style. (New York Weekly.)

Dealer: I am sure, madam, you could look the city through and not find a handsomer carriage than this.

The Royal is the highest grade baking powder known. Actual tests show it goes one-third further than any other brand.



THE COCKADE CITY.

Rush Work, on Account of the War-School-Sunday Meetings.

PETERSBURG, VA., April 18.—(Special.)—The tenth annual meeting of the Baptist Sunday-School Association of this city was held Sunday afternoon at the First Baptist church, the president, Mr. R. W. Collier, presiding. There was a large assemblage present, and a very interesting musical programme was rendered by the church choir.

The address on the occasion was delivered by Rev. B. C. Henning. The reports from the several schools showed the following organization:

| | Avg. No. Atts. Per Week | Reg'd. Atts. Per Week |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| First Church | 314 | 289 |
| West-End | 224 | 232 |
| Ettrick | 159 | 153 |
| Second Church | 159 | 153 |
| Total | 964 | 727 |

Mr. R. L. Matthews was elected president of the association for the ensuing year.

The monthly meeting of the Methodist Sunday-School Association was held yesterday afternoon at Wesley church. There was some fine singing by the choir, and the reports of the superintendents as to organization and attendance were gratifying.

RUSH WORK.

The Petersburg Iron-Works to-day shipped a large quantity of iron bolts to Fort Monroe to be used in strengthening the new mortar batteries at that point.

The company put on a large force of men and worked all day and night, Sunday, and Sunday night to finish the contracts for these bolts, for which there was immediate need.

The Norfolk and Western Railroad Company is rushing coal through to Lambert Point to its utmost capacity. On Sunday morning, twelve trains loaded with coal, averaging forty-five cars to each train, passed east through our city.

Several companies of troops destined for Tampa and Key West were billed to pass South over the Atlantic-Coast Line to-night.

GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. Julius C. Holmes, Government Inspector of Buildings, visited and inspected the custom-house building in this city to-day. It is understood that he has decided to recommend a remodelled brick for the structure, and a four yard of the government premises.

The Grand Council of Royal Arcanum of Virginia will meet in Richmond to-morrow. The Petersburg representatives are R. W. Kraus, of Sycamore Council, and George W. Tucker, of South-Side Council.

J. B. Washington, of west Washington street, and Frederick Winfree, of Ettrick, while at work late Saturday night at the Petersburg Iron-Works, had each their right foot painfully hurt by an unfortunate accident. The injuries are not serious.

Rev. Dr. J. William Jones, of Richmond, had a large audience to hear his address at the Young Men's Christian Association Sunday afternoon.

Sampson Price, negro, was sent to jail for thirty days by the Mayor this morning for interfering with an officer while in the discharge of his duty.

At the term of the Hustings Court which commences this week several important damage suits will be tried.

CHARLOTTESVILLE.

Death of an Old Citizen—A Church Dedicated.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., April 18.—(Special.)—Captain Christopher L. Fowler died about 7 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his residence, on west Main street, after a week's illness. His funeral will take place from the Baptist church to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Captain Fowler was in his 84th year, having been born on the 14th day of December, 1813, in a house, not now standing, within the site of the present City Hall. His father was the late David W. Fowler, who was at one time in charge of the warehouse at Pireux, of the Richmond Navigation Company.

Major of the town of Charlottesville during the late war, and he and the chairman of the University of Virginia met Sheridan's army just west of that institution, and surrendered the corporation and the college. To this act the Captain always attached much honor.

He was a member of the community of the town and University from its foundation to the present time. After the war he was elected the first assessor (now known as Commissioner of the Revenue) of the city of Charlottesville, which office he held continuously until his death. Fifty-five years ago he was captain of the Jefferson Guard, which bestowed upon him his title. He was devoted to hunting and fishing, and was a charter member of the Camp Armistead Hunting Club, and was one of the regular participants in their annual hunt.

Captain Fowler was twice married—first, with Miss Turner, of King William; whom there was no issue, and next to Miss Staples, daughter of W. A. Staples, of Stapleton, Amherst. The issue of this marriage was three sons—W. D. C. L. Jr., and W. E. Fowler.

Captain Fowler was a man of genial manners, and had many strongly attached friends. He served the city faithfully in all of his relations to it. He was generous in his dealings with the poor and unfortunate, to whom he always gave liberally.

The new Christian church of this city was dedicated yesterday. The impressive ceremonies were witnessed by very large audiences, and they were exceedingly interesting throughout. The music was excellent.

The Gymkhana races, which were to have occurred at Keewick Friday, but were prevented by rain, will be held to-morrow.

The first meeting of a series looking to a revival was held at the Christian church this evening. The Rev. H. C. Bowen, of Winston, N. C., will conduct them.

that he felt better. Turning on his side in a few moments after the doctor left the house, he died without a struggle. It is thought, from heart trouble. Mr. Jett was 62 years old, had been a very active, energetic business-man, engaged successfully in mercantile farming and hotel-keeping, and had accumulated considerable property. He had been married three times. His first wife, who was a Miss Lombard, of Brunswick county, and three children by his first marriage and four children by the second marriage survive him.

THE OLD CAPITAL.

Death of Miss Armistead-Visitors from Richmond—Personals.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., April 18.—(Special.)—Information was received from Hampton to-day of the death of Miss Julia Armistead, which occurred at 5 o'clock this morning, at the residence of her sister, Mrs. V. P. Holt, with whom she lived. It is understood that the funeral will take place in Hampton to-morrow evening. The deceased was a native of this place and a sister of Mr. Robert T. Armistead, of C. P. Armistead, steward and cashier of the Eastern State Hospital, and Miss Armistead was a most excellent lady, and will be sadly missed, not only by her immediate family, but also by her numerous friends.

Revs. S. P. Hotchkiss, of St. Luke's church, Philadelphia, preached at Bruton Episcopal church last night, and Rev. C. S. Morris, of Boston, yesterday morning. On both occasions there were large congregations.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Russell, of New England, are among the visitors here. Mrs. Russell is a niece of William H. Rogers, a former Professor of Chemistry at the college.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Spencer will attend the meeting of the Colonial Dames at the Jefferson on the 26th of this month. The asylum board, at its recent meeting, granted a furlough to Mr. Spencer, the steward of the institution, if his health at any time in the near future required it.

Miss Rosa Merrill, daughter of Professor George E. Merrill, of Richmond, is visiting Mrs. Sallie Munford Colos.

Miss Marian Jones returned home this morning, after a lecture tour. She is accompanied by Rev. W. T. Roberts, of Bruton church here, visited Jamestown Island to-day, where they spent several hours very pleasantly.

The many friends of Mr. John Calhoun Slater, who has been in declining health for some time, will be pleased to learn that his condition is now considered very serious. He is very weak.

Miss Susan Webb returned this morning from a lengthy visit to Norfolk. Messrs. Walter Mercer and Kitty Morcock also came home from a charming visit to Mrs. Z. G. Dufrey, in Hampton.

MOVING A BATTERY.

The Contract for Carrying Batteries From Old Point.

NORFOLK, VA., April 18.—(Special.)—Competitive bids were put in this morning at Old Point for moving Battery F, Fourth Artillery, to Chickamauga. This battery consists of three officers, about one hundred men, fifty-two horses, four guns, four caissons, and one battery wagon. It requires a driver coach, two Pullman sleepers, two gondolas, and three stock-cars, making an eleven-coach train. The bids were opened at 12 o'clock to-day, and the Seaboard was awarded the contract. They had the troops moved from Old Point to South Atlantic point have been carried by the Seaboard Air-Line.

Death in Lexington.

LEXINGTON, VA., April 18.—(Special.)—Mr. W. H. Nett, a wealthy resident of East Lexington